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Philippine Trade Gains Over 1924

Philippine trade figures for the first six months of the current year indicate that 1925 will show a greater total trade than any year except 1920, the post-war boom period when prices were inflated to their highest point. There is a possibility that even the 1920 figure of \$300,600,000 will be exceeded, although the probability is that Philippine foreign trade for 1925 will be about \$275,000,000, as compared with \$245,000,000 in 1924.

The six months' figures show an increase of 11 per cent over 1924 in total foreign trade. Exports increased six per cent, from \$75,912,000 in 1924 to \$80,644,000 in 1925. The half-yearly imports rose from \$49,352,000 in 1924 to \$58,573,000 this year, a gain of 19 per cent. Although the balance of trade in favor of the Islands is about \$4,500,000 less than for the first half of 1924, this is in part due to the increase in exports from the United States to the Philippines, and, therefore, has its advantages so far as the United States is concerned.

A remarkable fact about the comparative figures is the even distribution of the gain, both as regards imports and exports. Imports and exports of all principal products showed increases with but one exception, namely in the case of exports of leaf tobacco, which showed a decline of about \$720,000 as compared with the first six months of 1924.

The relative standing of the principal exports and imports continues the same. Sugar, hemp, coconut oil and copra continue to head the exports, in the order named, while the principal imports, in order of value, are cotton cloth, iron

and steel, cotton manufactures, meat and dairy products and wheat flour, as they were last year.

Despite periodical slumps and recessions, Philippine trade on the whole during the first six months of 1925 has made steady, substantial progress and bids fair to establish a new record. The figures follow:

PHILIPPINE FOREIGN TRADE FIRST SIX MONTHS, 1924 and 1925

Imports

Commodities	1925	1924
Iron and steel...	\$6,852,000	\$5,722,000
Cotton and its manufactures, except cloth...	3,635,000	3,204,000
Cotton cloth ...	11,040,000	8,825,000
Meat and dairy products	2,493,000	2,410,000
Autos, tires and parts	1,939,000	1,436,000
Wheat flour ...	2,306,000	1,979,000
Paper and its manufactures .	1,903,000	1,585,000
Leather and its manufactures .	753,000	504,000
All others	27,652,000	23,687,000
Total	\$58,573,000	\$49,352,000

Exports

Commodities	1925	1924
Abaca (Manila hemp)	\$16,961,000	\$13,908,000
Sugar	34,001,000	33,805,000
Coconut oil	9,053,000	7,557,000
Copra	6,501,000	6,065,000
Copra cake	705,000	550,000
Cigars and cigarettes	2,622,000	2,423,000
Leaf tobacco ...	1,485,000	2,209,000
All others	9,316,000	9,395,000
Total	\$80,644,000	\$75,912,000

“Hold the Philippines”

The Colorado Springs “Gazette” of August 16, 1925, contains an editorial entitled “Hold the Philippines,” which we reprint in full:

The new Congress will find the Philippines on the doorstep, and a discord of voices advising what to do. The *independistas* will be back demanding freedom and will find support from an element in this country interested because a quarter of a century ago “imperialism” was raised as an issue. Severance will be urged in another quarter, not from any idea of granting independence to Filipinos, but as a matter of political expediency, it being argued that the Philippines are a danger spot for the United States. If natives of the Islands can make themselves heard they will ask continued protection, while American sentiment, conceding ignorance of details, will favor remaining in the Philippines if for no other reason than because present policy is known and change is uncertain. •

Local Politicians Selfish

The plea of the *independistas*, according to every reliable report, is selfish. The party is made up, not of natives, but of the old ruling element under the Spanish regime. The desire is to return to power for the profit that is to be had in administration. What this profit is can be seen from the results of Spanish administration; indeed, a more

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Germans Build Up Philippine Trade To Pre-War Level

By WALTER ROBB

(Special Correspondent of The Chicago Daily News)

MANILA. — (CPA) — The German trade with the Philippine Islands now exceeds pre-war figures, according to the Bureau of Commerce and Industry. This trade was valued at \$4,762,038 in 1924, as compared with \$4,639,039 in 1913. It is increasing considerably this year, and a German chamber of commerce has just been organized to push it further and maintain good relations with the Filipinos. In imports and exports it is about balanced, there being little difference either way over a period of a year.

But trade with Germany by no means represents the bulk of commerce enjoyed by German firms in the Islands. A large part of their business of exporting products of the Philippines is with the United States. They are not new firms, but only those re-established that had existed before the World War. Their methods for re-establishing themselves are very practical. They give attention to the minor products of the Islands especially, hence finding themselves about the only purchaser of these products—rubber, gums, resins, etc.—which in bulk are important.

E. Viegelmann is president of their new chamber of commerce. He is also the German consul-general for the Islands and is the head of E. Viegelmann & Co. His business is excellently conducted. No one comes into Manila with coastal or forest products for which the firm will not make an offer. Hats are one of the firm's important lines; it has a considerable share of this industry just as it had prior to the war.

German firms lay stress upon the acquisition of languages. They try to conduct each transaction in the language of the buyer or the seller with whom they are dealing. They commonly know not only English but both Spanish and Tagalog. When for example a woman from Balaug comes into the office with two bundles of fine "buntal" hats worth around \$3,000 when sorted and classified, she is welcomed in Tagalog; the counting and classifying are done in Tagalog, and the negotiations closed in the same native tongue. She is kept at her ease, and



Why Beg Rubber from England When the United States Can Raise All the Rubber It Needs in Our Philippine Territory?

being satisfied with the treatment accorded her she soon returns with more bundles of hats.

American business is immensely larger than the German, in other lines for the most part. The Germans simply make a place for themselves, though their imports are at this time competing somewhat with certain American manufacturers—cutlery, building steel and piece goods.—(Copyright, 1925, by the Chicago Daily News Company.)

Filipinos Becoming Bread Eaters

The Washington "Star" of August 16, 1925, points out that the "Filipinos, prospering under American sovereignty, are becoming bread eaters. This may be an explanation of why they are able to win the Far Eastern Olympic games. Last year they bought about \$4,000,000 worth of flour from the United States. Prior to the American regime flour for the Philippines came chiefly from Australia. In 1899 only \$66,000 worth was bought from the United States. Now, with hundreds of bakeries in Manila, baking machinery is also bought in America."

"Hold the Philippines"

(Continued from page 1)

recent and fair example is had in the events which followed the liberties extended in the Harrison era. The native Filipinos are as antagonistic to the half-breed caciques as the independistas are to America rule. They feel that under a Governor General sent out from Washington they will be protected in their liberties and their interests and that if they are given over to the mestizos they will be plundered. That is the answer to the sentimental reasons urged for Philippine freedom and if it is not so strongly put as the case for liberty made in Manila, it is because the natives are for the most part inarticulate.

Effect in Far East

But there is a broader consideration. The four-power Pacific treaty is based on the existing arrangements and pledges its maintenance. The United States is in the Far East. If it abandons the Philippines it is out and the Islands will soon go to somebody else. They cannot insure their own freedom. Even the independistas, demanding liberty, ask that the United States continue to extend its protection against aggression. The independistas want the offices and the taxing power but not the responsibility. The Philippines, free, would be for the power that took them. That would change the whole situation in the Pacific. The Islands are more than a local question; they hold an important place in the international arrangement.

Economic Considerations

Beyond this is the economic phase. The Philippine archipelago is possessed of tremendous potential wealth. The benefits of this will be insured to Filipinos under American administration where the islanders could not themselves conserve their resources and would lose them were they to come under control of another. The American interest was created under circumstances that would not apply to another and it carries a sense of responsibility with it. The United States expects to gain and should. The Philippines are a valuable asset. But this country's purpose is not selfish and its performance stands in evidence. The most competent adviser in Philippine policy is General Wood and Congress could do no better than adopt his suggestions.

